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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,249	08/13/2001	Richard Suyehira	10005946-1	8794

7590 12/22/2005

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Intellectual Property Administration
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EXAMINER

WALLERSON, MARK E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/929,249	Applicant(s) SUYEHIRA, RICHARD	
	Examiner Mark E. Wallerson	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-17 and 20-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,6-17 and 20-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on **10/3/05**.
2. This application has been reconsidered. Claims 1-4, 6-17, and 20-36 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 24, 25, 16, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endoh (U.S. 6,707,566) in view of Cox et al (Cox) (U.S. 6,449,054).

With respect to claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 24, 27, 32, and 35, Endoh discloses creating a plurality of printer groups (102-107); for each of the plurality of printers, associating the printer with one or more of the printer groups by assigning a printer identifier (ID, figure 1) with at least one of the printer groups (102-104 and 105 to 107, figure 1 and column 3, lines 20-31), and printer identifier uniquely identifying the printer (ID:1, ID:2, and ID:3 identify printers 102-104 respectively); collecting data from the printers (column 4, lines 53-64), and processing aggregated data of the printer groups (column 4, lines 54-64).

Endoh differs from claims 1, 4, 12, 24, 27, 32, and 34 in that he does not clearly disclose moving a printer associated with a first group to a second group by dissociating the printer identifier from the first group and associating the printer identifier with the second group.

Cox discloses a network system comprising plural printers and allowing a user to move a printer associated with a first group to a second group by dissociating the printer identifier from the first group and associating the printer identifier with the second group (column 3, lines 45-56). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Endoh to allow a user to move a printer associated with a first group to a second group by dissociating the printer identifier from the first group and associating the printer identifier with the second group. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Endoh by the teaching of Cox in order to achieve flexibility in the use of the multiple printers as disclosed by Cox in column 2, lines 10-13.

With regard to claim 2, Endoh discloses creating a printer identifier for each printer (column 3, lines 20-31).

With respect to claims 3, 25, and 33, Endoh discloses adding an additional printer to the printer groups by associating a printer identifier with the printer groups with identifies the printer (figure 3 and column 5, lines 23-45).

With regard to claims 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 36, Cox discloses adding or removing printer groups (column 2, lines 43-48) or removing printers from the groups (column 3, lines 45-56).

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5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 17, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endoh in view of Bullock et al (Bullock) (U.S. 5,812,156).

With respect to claims 17 and 23, Endoh discloses a printer identifier that uniquely identifies the printer (figure 1); a data collection module configured to collect printer usage data from the printer (column 4, lines 53-64), a connection to a host computer (figure 1), the host computer configured to associate the printer identifier with one or more printer groups identified by the host computer (column 3, lines 11-65). Endoh differs from claim 17 in that he does not clearly disclose a memory component integrated into a replaceable component of the printer for storing printer usage data.

Bullock discloses a printer comprising a replaceable cartridge comprising a memory for storing printer usage information (the abstract and column 2, lines 20-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Endoh to include a memory component integrated into a replaceable component of the printer for storing printer usage data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Endoh by the teaching of Bullock in order to improve user efficiency.

With regard to claim 20, Endoh discloses a browser (user interface) (column 4, lines 40-52 and column 8, line 60 to column 9, line 9).

With regard to claims 21 and 22, Endoh discloses a network interface card or communications port (column 3, lines 56-65).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 10/3/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant submits that Endoh does not disclose collecting and manipulating data from the printers. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Endoh discloses inputting a group address and printing conditions of the printers and displaying the printing conditions on a display of the personal computer (column 4, lines 54-57) and allowing the printers to perform different printing processes according to a processing ability of each printer (column 5, lines 50-54; column 7, lines 27-32, and column 8, lines 12-23 and lines 60-64). This clearly reads on collecting and manipulating data from the printers.

Conclusion

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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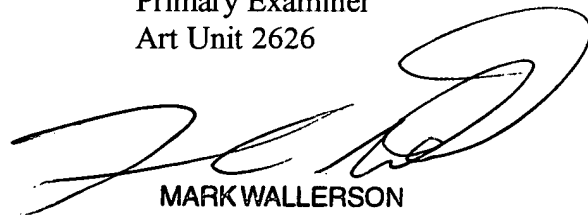
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark E. Wallerson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7470. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday - 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (571) 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark E. Wallerson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626



MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER